

Attorney Docket 55434US002
U.S.S.N. 09/591,584

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11, 13-15, 17-22, 31-33, 35, 38 and 39 stand finally rejected as noted in the final Office Action dated October 27, 2003. Claims 28 and 29 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but as otherwise being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The final Office Action indicates that claims 16, 23, 36, and 37 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten to overcome a § 112 rejection. However, a § 112 rejection is not set out in the October 27th final Office Action. The Advisory Action dated February 17, 2004 corrects this error by indicating that a § 112 rejection was not made against claims 16, 23, 36 and 37 in the October 27th final Office Action. The Advisory Action further indicates that claims 16, 23, 36 and 37 recite allowable subject matter. Claims 12, 24-27, 30, 34 and 40 stand allowed.

With this paper, claims 28 and 29, which recite allowable subject matter, have been canceled and their limitations incorporated into claims 1 and 9, respectively. Remaining independent claims 12 and 24 have been allowed.


It is submitted that this paper does not raise new issues and places the application in condition for allowance. Hence, entry of this paper is respectfully requested. During a telephone conversation on February 18, 2005 involving Examiner Vo and applicant's representative Robert L. Showalter, Examiner Vo indicated that she would enter an Amendment which merely cancels objected to claims 28 and 29 and adds the limitations of those claims into independent claims 1 and 9.

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In view of the above remarks, applicant submits that claims 1-27 and 30-40 define patentably over the prior art. Early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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